

rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 371.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

NATIONAL CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 376) recognizing annually a National Classified School Employee of the Year and honoring the valuable contributions of Classified School Employees in the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 376

Whereas classified school employees provide valuable service to America's public schools and community colleges;

Whereas classified school employees contribute to the establishment and promotion of a positive instructional environment as paraeducators and library aides;

Whereas classified school employees provide other essential educational services such as transportation, facilities maintenance and operations, food and support services, and health care;

Whereas classified school employees play a vital role in providing for the welfare and safety of America's school children and students;

Whereas classified school employees strive for excellence in all areas relative to the education community; and

Whereas in order that classified school employees are acknowledged for their outstanding contribution to quality education across America, the National Classified School Employee of the Year is recognized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The House of Representatives—

(1) supports the recognition of the National Classified School Employee of the Year and urges the United States Department of Education, all States, State education agencies, local education agencies, community colleges, and members of the public to join in this observance;

(2) congratulates the National Classified School Employee of the Year; and

(3) congratulates all classified school employees across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring student achievement, student safety and well-being.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 376, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I would consume.

I would like to thank Chairman MILLER and the committee staff for helping move this bill so quickly and the gentleman from Tennessee for being here with me today.

We often recognize teachers for their hard work, for their dedication to our children. In fact, we need to do more of this. Teachers are very important to ensuring that our children are learning.

However, there has been far too little recognition for the school support personnel, those who help schools run smoothly, the classified school employees. Teachers can't teach without support of classified school employees. This includes instructional assistants, clerical staffs, school bus drivers, food services employees, maintenance, security and others who ensure a safe and healthy school day every day for our children.

Imagine a school day without this support: without bus drivers, how would our children get to school? Without janitors, who will ensure their classrooms, cafeteria and bathrooms are clean? Without food service personnel, who will serve their food, who will order their food? Without a school nurse, where will children go if they are not feeling well or they are needing medication? Without maintenance personnel, what would happen if something broke or if the school is too hot or too cold? Without office and clerical staff, who will ensure that the proper person picks up a child? And without security personnel, who will make sure our schools are safe? These responsibilities need to be met in order for our students to be able to do what they come to school to do: learn.

What do our teachers come to school for? To teach. These and many more tasks would not be possible without these important school employees.

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That is why I introduced this resolution with Chairman MILLER and Representative HARE, to recognize the many contributions classified school employees make to our children's school day. Without the work of these valuable employees, schools would be unable to function.

Today, we recognize the work of the classified school employee and thank them for their hard work in helping ensure that our schools run smoothly. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts of our classified school employees and thanking them for all they do to make certain our children are able to learn and teachers are able to teach in a safe and healthy environment.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 376, which will recognize annually a National Classified School Employee of the Year and the valuable contributions of classified school employees.

I would like to thank my colleague from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for her leadership on this issue and for introducing the resolution we are considering today.

Like many schools across the country and in my district, the education of our Nation's children is a team effort. Often, when education is discussed, we think of teachers and administrators. However, classified school employees, school bus drivers, food service workers, clerical and administrative staff, para-educators, and facilities and maintenance workers protect and nurture children as well.

Classified school employees are usually the first of the school staff workers the children see when they start their day and the last ones they see when they go home. They are the caretakers of our schools and community colleges. School bus drivers carry the most precious cargo, our children. Parents want the peace of mind that comes from entrusting the person behind the wheel in their children's school bus.

Getting kids to and from schools safely and on schedule makes bus drivers, mechanics, and other transportation personnel an integral part of our schools and of our communities. Classified employees in the office, clerical and administrative staff, maintain attendance records, answer the phones, and interact with parents and school officials. School nurses help children with scrapes and cuts, assist with medications, and help keep accurate records of immunizations and students' medical history. All of these school employees are vital to the success of our schools.

Without skilled facilities and maintenance workers, our children would not have safe and comfortable places to learn. A lot of work is required to maintain a school community and keep it running smoothly. Custodians keep the schools clean. Groundskeepers keep the grounds safe for sports and other recreational activities. And facilities workers foresee and troubleshoot problems in school buildings. These classified workers provide a valuable service to our schools.

Many times the meal students receive at school is the best or only meal they get each day. Food service workers play a significant role in the educational process by providing nutritious meals for children. Research shows that good nutrition enables a student to meet their educational and physical potential.

Para-educators, librarians and other instructional assistants, support and

enhance the work of teachers in all components of the educational process. The increased use of para-professional staff in education across the United States has been well documented, as has the change in their role from largely clerical to instructional duties. These professionals play a key role in ensuring student achievement.

Together, with certified school employees, teachers, and administrators, classified school employees work hard to provide productive, safe and stable environments for our children that are conducive to learning. Classified school employees strive for excellence in all areas relative to the educational community.

For that, I ask that we annually recognize a National Classified School Employee of the Year and honor the invaluable contributions of all classified school employees for their tireless commitment to the academic success, safety and well-being of America's children, and I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 376.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, our school children couldn't attend school and teachers couldn't teach without the efforts of these valuable school personnel.

Personnel like Al Hart, District Information Services Coordinator for Reed School District in southern Marin County. Mr. Hart was recognized this year as the Marin County classified school employee of the year. His hard work and that of other school employees in the rest of the 6th district of California, and the rest of the country should be recognized.

Classified school employees work with teachers and administrators to ensure that our schools are safe and healthy places. Their contributions are invaluable and can be recognized today and every day.

That's why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 376 to thank classified school employees for their work and to recognize them for their efforts.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 376.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 264) supporting the goals and ideals of "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week" and honoring the service of correctional officers and employees.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 264

Whereas the operation of correctional facilities represents a crucial component of the criminal justice system of the United States;

Whereas correctional personnel play a vital role in protecting the right of the public to be safeguarded from criminal activity;

Whereas correctional personnel are responsible for the care, custody, and dignity of the human beings charged to their care;

Whereas correctional personnel work under demanding circumstances and face danger in their daily work lives; and

Whereas the first week of May is recognized as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week"; and

(2) honors all correctional officers and employees for their service to their communities and States, and to the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H. Res. 264 is a bipartisan resolution designed to honor correctional officers and employees by acknowledging and supporting the goals and ideals of National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. This was introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH).

The resolution directly honors correctional workers at all levels, local, State and Federal, including psychologists, chaplains, teachers and even kitchen staff.

Correctional officers and employees play a vital role in protecting and promoting public safety. They work in our county jails, our State prisons and our Federal penitentiaries. They have a tough job in a tough environment and at a time that Congress and State legislatures are actually making the job more difficult because we have been eliminating programs for inmates, such as parole, good conduct credits and Pell Grants for college courses, programs that give incentives to prisoners to behave. Now, with the additional reduction in prison inmate jobs on the

Federal level, even more pressure will be put on correctional officers to maintain a safe and productive environment for prisoners.

So it is fitting, Mr. Speaker, that we pause at this time to recognize and commend our correctional officers and employees for the very important job that they do for us every day under these very difficult circumstances, and to them we say, "Thank you."

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to indicate that I have received a note from the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN), the lead sponsor of the resolution and chair of the Congressional Correctional Officers Caucus. First, he asked that I share his regrets that he was not able to be with us today to speak on this resolution due to a prior commitment in his home district. He also asked that I convey his strong support for the men and women who work in our prisons and correctional facilities on a daily basis. And he also asked me to personally welcome on his behalf the correctional community to Washington, D.C., for their annual day on Capitol Hill, which is scheduled to occur this coming Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 264, which recognizes National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, and honors the service of correctional officers and employees.

Few jobs are more dangerous and difficult than serving as a correctional officer. There are over 200,000 correctional officers in the United States who guard us from nearly 2 million criminals and maintain the safety of the Nation's correctional facilities. It is a job with high risk and often little recognition or reward. This resolution recognizes the important role that correctional officers play in maintaining public safety.

Correctional officers carry a heavy burden each day. They are surrounded by dangerous criminals and work in a stressful environment. We hear about but don't often stop to recognize the hundreds of correctional officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Last year in Maryland, two correctional officers were killed. On January 27, 2006, Correctional Officer Jeffrey Alan Wroten II was brutally shot and killed; and on July 25, 2006, Officer David Warren McGuinn was killed. What happened to these two Maryland officers unfortunately has happened to hundreds of other correctional officers in past years. Correctional Officer Jeffrey Alan Wroten left behind a wife and five children, the oldest, age 15, and the youngest, 5 years of age. This makes his loss and the loss of others like him even more heartbreaking.